

To: Manzanilla, Enrique[Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov]; Herrera, Angeles[Herrera.Angeles@epa.gov]; Tenley, Clancy[Tenley.Clancy@epa.gov]
From: Harris-Bishop, Rusty
Sent: Wed 2/19/2014 10:17:46 PM
Subject: FW: SORRY RE: Ventura County Star article on One Step health survey results

Here is the article from yesterday's press conference in Fillmore. We referred the reporter to Dr. Morgan who had done the cancer survey of the area.

Rusty



Rusty Harris-Bishop • Superfund Project Manager • Communications Liaison • US Environmental Protection Agency •

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From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:52 AM
To: Lane, Jackie; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Ball, Harold
Cc: Hadlock, Holly; Tenley, Clancy; Keener, Bill
Subject: RE: SORRY RE: Ventura County Star article on One Step health survey results

Below is the full story:

Conflicting cancer reports from Fillmore Superfund site

By Tony Biasotti, Tuesday, February 18, 2014

A year after Fillmore residents were told the former oil refinery east of town didn't put them at

any increased risk for cancer, a new study claims that people who live near the site do have high rates of cancer and other medical problems.

The new study was conducted by One Step a la Vez, a Fillmore community group, and James Dahlgren, a physician who specializes in toxic chemical exposure. It was based on a survey of 124 people who live near the former Texaco refinery.

The refinery property is now owned by Chevron. The company is in the midst of a cleanup under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program and wants to put a business park on the site once it meets the standards for redevelopment.

Dahlgren said he found 18 people with non-skin cancers among the 124 respondents, six of them younger than 40. "These are higher than expected rates representing an excess in cancer within the younger population and indicative of exposure to a carcinogenic environment causing early cancers," his report said.

Dahlgren's findings contradict those of John Morgan, a professor at Loma Linda University and an epidemiologist with the California Cancer Registry.

In a study released about a year ago, Morgan looked at all cases of cancer in the eastern half of Fillmore between 1996 and 2009. There were 422 cases in that time period, which was exactly the number one would expect, based on typical cancer rates in the region and the demographics of the area.

"We didn't see an excess of any kind of cancer," Morgan said in an interview on Tuesday.

All diagnoses of cancer must be reported to the California Cancer Registry, and Morgan used that data in his study, rather than a door-to-door survey.

"A household survey is not a valid way to determine a cancer diagnosis," Morgan said. "You're

dependent upon people's knowledge of what constitutes cancer. There are many people that define noncancerous tumors as cancer, for example."

Dahlgren did not attend Tuesday's news conference. He called in via teleconference to read a summary of his findings but did not take any questions.

One Step a la Vez CEO Lynn Edmonds said Dahlgren recently told the group he could not answer questions about the study because he might be involved in a lawsuit related to the site.

Dahlgren did not return a phone call placed to his office in Santa Monica.

Dahlgren is a well-known expert in toxic exposure cases. He studied cancers in the Mojave Desert town of Hinkley; the case was made famous by the movie "Erin Brockovich."

"Chevron is well aware of him because he's regularly retained by plaintiff's lawyers across the country," said Leslie Klinchuch, Chevron's project manager for the Fillmore site.

Morgan has also studied Hinkley, and he said the common perception of the case —that pollution by Pacific Gas & Electric gave people there cancer — is incorrect.

The California Cancer Registry did three different studies of cancer rates in Hinkley, Morgan said, and found high rates only of cervical cancer. That cancer is caused by a sexually transmitted virus, and Morgan said he thinks the high rate in Hinkley was because it is a poor community here many women don't getting regular pap screenings. A Pap test can catch the virus before it causes cancer.

"Hinkley came off the Center for Disease Control's list of cancer clusters in response to our findings," Morgan said.

Nahal Mogharabi

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From: Lane, Jackie

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 5:59 PM

To: Lane, Jackie; Mogharabi, Nahal; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Ball, Harold

Cc: Hadlock, Holly; Tenley, Clancy

Subject: SORRY RE: Ventura County Star article on One Step health survey results

Sorry guys, I thought this web address below went right to the article. You have to have a subscription to view it. I asked Leslie from Chevron to send it to me. I will share when I get it.
Jackie

From: Lane, Jackie

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 5:48 PM

To: Mogharabi, Nahal; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Gerhardstein, Ben; Ball, Harold

Cc: Hadlock, Holly; Tenley, Clancy

Subject: FW: Ventura County Star article on One Step health survey results

Importance: High

FYI – One Steps Press Coverage

From: Klinchuch, Leslie (LeslieKlinchuch) [<mailto:LeslieKlinchuch@chevron.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 5:13 PM

To: Hadlock, Holly; Lane, Jackie; Rayman, Jamie

Subject: Ventura County Star article on One Step health survey results

Importance: High

FYI...

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/2014/feb/18/reports-conflict-about-risk-of-cancer-resulting/>

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